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Los Angeles Museum to Showcase Saudi Art

WASHINGTON (August 11, 2011) — The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) recently acquired work from two contemporary Saudi artists, Ahmed Mater and Abdulnasser Gharem, which will be featured in its permanent collection on Middle Eastern and Islamic art.

"This acquisition provides people with an opportunity to learn more about Saudi art," said Saudi Ambassador to the United States, Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir. "Exhibits like this strengthen cultural ties between our two nations."

The Edge of Arabia arts project helped facilitate LACMA's acquisitions in hope of engaging American audiences in contemporary art from the Arab World. The Los Angeles museum is currently leading an effort to build its Middle Eastern collection and welcomed both pieces to their growing collection of contemporary Middle Eastern art.

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ARAB WORLD

King Abdullah calls for end to violence in Syria, recalls ambassador

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz called for an end to the violence and the implementation of real reforms in Syria. In a statement from Jeddah on August 7, King Abdullah said that what is happening in Syria is unacceptable and unjustifiable and called on the Syrian leadership to enact swift and comprehensive reforms. "Syria's future lies between choosing between only two options: either it chooses wisdom on its own, or it will be pulled down into the depth of turmoil and loss – may God forbid," King Abdullah said. "The brotherly Syrian government and people are aware of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's past support for them. Today, Saudi Arabia stands up to its historical responsibility towards its brothers, demands an end to the killing machine and bloodshed, and asking for reason to prevail before it is too late." King Abdullah announced that he recalled the Kingdom's ambassador to Damascus for consultations on the events in Syria.

EMBASSY EVENTS

Saudi Ambassador Al-Jubeir hosted traditional Iftar

Saudi Ambassador to the U.S. Adel A. Al-Jubeir hosted a traditional Iftar (fast-breaking meal) for Arab and Muslim ambassadors at the Saudi Embassy in Washington on August 3. Muslim leaders and members of the Saudi community in Washington also attended the traditional Ramadan event. The Holy Month began on August 1, 2011.

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ECONOMY

Customs revenues up 14.2 percent

Saudi Customs reported on August 5 that total revenue for the year 1431 H. (2010) has reached SR 15.1 billion (\$4 billion). That figure is up SR 1.8 billion (\$480 million) from 2009, or 14.2 percent.

FOREIGN AID

100 tons of Saudi dates delivered to Cameroon

Saudi Ambassador to Cameroon Mahmoud bin Hussein Qattan recently handed over 100 tons of dates during an official ceremony at the Saudi Embassy in Yaoundé. The consignment was a gift from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz to the government and people of Cameroon. Ambassador Qattan noted that an additional 96 tons of dates would soon be delivered. Mamadou Moustapha, a representative of the government of Cameroon, thanked King Abdullah for the gift and the ongoing humanitarian and economic assistance provided by the Kingdom to the developing world.

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